9/17/58

Dear Sir;

I have been talking with some of the fellows that work at the Center. They say things are very slow and that many of the employees are being laid off. They also told me that the braceros are still geting very bad treatment in barrack #3 from the photographers. Munoz cusses them out very badly and clips their hair. Campillo does the same thing and also hits them with judo chops on the neck and shoulders, and he pulls their hair and throws them against the wall. These are two young fellows that want to act tough and look big. I have seen this done with my own eyes.

While to the Martinez camp I have seen the workers loading on the different type of trucks that my friend mentioned. I was wondering if you would like me to go out in the fields and take photographs of the men working and also when they are loaded into the trucks. The type of truck I seen today was a semi-truck and it was loaded so full that sides were bulging out. The men were all in a standing position and so squeezed in that they had to hold their hats up in the air to keep them out of the faces of the other men. They were packed tighter than sardines.

I have been scouting around for more small camps like the Martinez camp, but they all have those big KEEP OUT signs. The Martinez camp seems to be the only one that does not have signs. I am planning to drive to my father's cousin's ranch in Niland, North end of Valley, some time this week. I think he has a few braceros working for him at this time of year.

I am sending you more information on the strike in Mexicali. There has been no headway gained for either side. It now looks like the cotton crops will be ruined. (much of it already has).

Cordially,

Louie M. Tagaban

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